THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The revised outlay for Karnataka in 1995-96 was reduced to Rs. 3100 crores compared to orginally approved outlay of Rs. 3575 crores mainly because of shortfall in State's Own Resource and in assistance for externally aided projects. The revised outlays for Rajasthan and Gujarat were the same as orginally approved outlay while in case of Haryana it was less and in case of Maharashtra, it was more. The reduction in the size of the Plan of Karnataka in 1995-96 is likely to affect implementation of schemes/programmes in certain sectors. The plan outlays are decided keeping in view the resources availability and therefore, it is not possible to restore the plan to the original size.

Serious Unemployment Problem in the Country

1389. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing a serious unemployment problem with around 380 millioin unemployed persons at the end of the current century, reported in the Hindustan Times of January 21, 1997, under the caption "Big Bang";

(b) if so, whether any time-bound plan of action has been evolved to produce a perceptible dent in the unemployment situation by the end of the current century; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The amgnitude of open unemployment in 1993-94, accoridng to the 50th Round of NSS by ususal Principal Status is 9 million persons. The extent of underemployment as measured by the Current daily Status is 7432 million person days which corresponds approximately to underemployment of 20.4 million persons. The Ninth Plan envisages a significant reduction in this.

Recognising the high incidence of underemployment and increasing casualisation of labour, there is need to enhance employment opportunities for the poor. In this context, the Ninth Plan will implement a National Employment Assurance Scheme.

Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. Improvements in the quality of employment can which be achieved only in situation of rapidly growing productivity to which the labour can lay a just claim.

Preparation of National Income Estimates

1390. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the major features of the methodology on the basis of which the Central Statistical Organisation prepares national income estimates;

(b) whether reservations have been expressed by the economists and statisticians on the choice of price deflators used to arrive at the estimates of national income at constant prices; and

(c) whether Government are considering to set up an expert committee to review the underlying issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Major features of the methodology as set down by an expert body are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir. Most serious economists and statisticians are aware of the details